

San Salvador, January 2017

Women Leaders Across Borders Delegation to El Salvador

El Salvador is moving through a decisive moment in the consolidation of its democracy. In January 2017 we celebrated twenty-five years since the signing of the Peace Accords. That momentous event calls us to reflect on the role that a popular progressive government has had in reduction of economic and social inequalities, and advancing economic equity, gender equality and democratic participation.

The current government led by President Salvador Sánchez Cerén has made enormous efforts to address the needs and potential of women in particular, and as leaders in all areas of development. We have made great progress in various fields: economic empowerment of women, access to credit, land and housing ownership, reproductive health, vocational training, and formal education, among others. Taking into account that women are 53% of the population, we believe that we still have a long way to go, but the progress made to date under the FMLN administration is historic in our country.

In this context, we invite you to visit our country participating in a delegation that aims to showcase successful projects for the benefit of women and to have a learning exchange to strengthen ties of solidarity and leadership among women across borders. We have designed an interactive program including visits to different programs and projects, sharing their achievements and difficulties. You will have the opportunity to share with women in the government from the Executive, Assembly, national Ministries and provincial level leaders; candidates for different public positions, and of course solidarity with women community leaders who work in the construction of peace and democracy.

In this process we are not alone, we promote solidarity among women in the world and we consider that it is very valuable to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation among the peoples, for this we hope the assistance of leaders of Latin America and the United States with whom we will reflect on the important role that we play in the political arena.

We will welcome you warmly in El Salvador from Saturday, May 27 through Saturday, June 3. We attach a preliminary itinerary and invite your suggestions for activities you wish us to set up.

With our affection,

 Liduvina Magarin Vice Minister for Salvadorans Abroad	 Vanda Pignato Secretary of Social Inclusion
 Eida Gladis Tobar Executive Director, Salvadoran Institute for Children and Youth	 Lourdes Palacios Sub Secretary for Citizen Participation, Transparency and Anti-Corruption, office of the President of El Salvador

**Women Leaders Across Borders Delegation to El Salvador
May 27th-June 3rd, 2017**

We invite you to join a delegation of women from the U.S. to support women in El Salvador who are emerging as leaders in government, politics, private sector and non-profits. (Men are also welcome!)

This delegation is hosted by four women in the highest levels of El Salvador's government:

Vanda Pignato, the former First Lady who is now the head of Ministry for the Social Inclusion, which includes an innovative and highly successful program, called Ciudad Mujer or "Women's Cities";

Elda Gladis Tobar, the head of the Institute for Adolescents and Children, which leads violence-prevention efforts for youth at risk for gangs; and is spouse of the current Vice President;

Liduvina Magarín, Vice Minister for Salvadorans in the Exterior;

Lourdes Palacios, the Sub Secretary for Government Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Citizen Participation.

This Delegation is open to women and men interested in the current situation in Central America:

- Women leaders in national, state and local elected office, and government agencies
- Policy staff, Legislative Aides, and Research/Policy professionals
- Health and Mental Health professionals, Labor representatives, Community leaders
- People interested in immigration, the Central America Free Trade agreement and regional issues.

Delegation Dates: Saturday May 27th – June 3rd (Short Delegation option: May 30th – June 3rd)

The Itinerary will include

- Participation in the June 1st "State of the Union" annual event of the current Administration
- Participation in Women's Congress: debate, reflection and commitments of women. Invited: Rossana Alvarado; vice president of Assembly of Ecuador; Xiomara Zelaya, Honduras; Alda Facio of Dominican Republic; and Sandra Torres of Guatemala.
- Visits to innovative programs that benefit women and youth:
 - Visit to Women's Centers (Ciudad Mujer) and the first ever Residential Youth center for re-integration of gang members and street youth
 - Visits to key sites of El Salvador's economic engine: tourism and exports
 - Briefings on US-El Salvador immigration issues; climate change; and
- Meetings with Elected officials and women running for office in 2018-2019 electoral cycle



Post-travel Itinerary

- Upon returning from our time abroad, we hope to organize an Election Observer Mission for mayors and congress members on March 4th, 2018. This will serve as a follow-up to the initial visit and an opportunity to hopefully witness the women we meet in May/June get elected into office!

Costs: \$1,200 plus airfare

Partial scholarships are available

Delegation Sponsoring Organization

This delegation is offered by SHARE Foundation, a 36-year old organization, which has led 10,000 US delegates to El Salvador over its history, with a perfect safety record.

SHARE is requesting funds to support this Delegation and the Women's Leadership Training Institute in El Salvador that is training 100 women leaders to be prepared to be community and non-profit leaders.

For more information please contact Jose Artiga, jose@share-elsalvador.org, Telephone: (510) 848-8487, Mobile: (415) 558-8634, and visit us at <http://www.share-elsalvador.org>